

**SBAR – LPHA Mutual Aid Agreement**  
**LPHA Mutual Aid Subcommittee**  
**October 8, 2015**

1. **Situation:** Since the development and signature of the “Intergovernmental Mutual Aid Agreement for Local Public Health Agencies of the State of Missouri” (LPHA mutual aid agreement), we have learned FEMA will not reimburse if provisions of agreements make reimbursement contingent on the declaration of an emergency, major disaster, or fire by the Federal government.
2. **Background:** The authority for public safety agencies to participate in statewide mutual aid is contained in Missouri statute under 44.090 RSMo and 70.837 RSMo. Public safety agencies, in statute, include public health and medical personnel. In the process of working with SEMA for the development of procedures for operationalizing the LPHA mutual aid agreement, the LPHA Mutual Aid Subcommittee has become aware of a provision of the FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy that states, “The reimbursement provision of a mutual aid agreement must not be contingent on a declaration of an emergency, major disaster, or fire by the Federal government.” Thus, any agreement must be silent on reimbursement. Section Five of the existing LPHA mutual aid agreement signed by several LPHAs has language that addresses the reimbursement of responding entities.
3. **Assessment:** The current provisions related to reimbursement in signed LPHA mutual aid agreements put LPHAs at risk for not being able to receive FEMA reimbursement for mutual aid to a federally declared disaster. Other public safety agencies participate in mutual aid with their like agencies through a common plan for mutual aid called MoSCOPE (Missouri Systems Concept of Operational Planning for Emergencies) [http://dfs.dps.mo.gov/documents/forms/MO\\_815-F0072.pdf](http://dfs.dps.mo.gov/documents/forms/MO_815-F0072.pdf). The plan has individual annexes for different disciplines including fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, K9, and coroners and medical examiners. Operating under a plan with individual annexes versus a signed agreement allows for common processes related to reimbursement at a large scale event such as the Joplin tornado. Further, by participating in the MoSCOPE plan, LPHA’s would be part of the “system of response” to an emergency rather than seen as a separate response partner. Under the MoSCOPE Plan each agency, for each disaster, chooses to provide requested mutual aid or not, regardless of any possibility for funding. The needs of LPHAs for statewide mutual aid could be met by adopting the MoSCOPE Plan with the development of an annex for LPHAs. Modifying the MoSCOPE Plan LPHA Annex in the future as needs and processes change would be more efficient than the logistics related to repealing and re-executing mutual aid agreements with all LPHAs.
4. **Recommendation/Request:** The LPHA Mutual Aid Subcommittee recommends that:
  - DAC recommend the termination of the Intergovernmental Mutual Aid Agreement for Local Public Health Agencies of the State of Missouri for LPHAs who have signed. Language to be included in the letter from LPHAs will be provided as outlined in Section 10 of the agreement;
  - Two webinars be held late November/early December to inform and educate LPHAs of the above described information;
  - The LPHA Mutual Aid Subcommittee proceed with development of forms and information for a LPHA Mutual Aid Annex to the MoSCOPE Plan;
  - A report of progress be provided at the DAC February meeting.

- A general session be held at the DHSS and LPHA Public Health Conference March 2-3, 2015 to share background, forms, and procedures.